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have responded eagerly to the appeals made in behalf of humanity and peace, and, where asked to do so, have themselves taken part enthusiastically in the exercises.

It is not proposed that the 18th of May be made a holiday, or that any large amount of time should be taken from the regular school duties, but that only half an hour, or at most an hour, should be devoted to this subject. The freshness of spirit aroused by such exercises compensates many times over for the time devoted to them.

During the past three years the state superintendents in no less than twelve states — Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Ohio, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Montana, Colorado, California, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Idaho — have recommended the observance of the day in the schools under their supervision, and in a considerable number of other states local superintendents have taken the matter up and secured most satisfactory results in the schools under their charge.

It is to be hoped that this year the Superintendents of Public Instruction in all the states and the superintendents in all the important cities of the nation, to whom this letter is addressed, will coöperate in securing the general observance of the day throughout the country in the way proposed.

The American Peace Society will be glad to place its literature, at a merely nominal price, at the service of superintendents and teachers who may desire to use it in making preparation for the day.

Asking your favorable consideration of the suggestion here made, I am, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society,

Yours very sincerely,

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD, *Secretary*.

Boston, March 2, 1908.

### The New Field Secretaryship.

The Board of Directors of the American Peace Society have established a Field Secretaryship, which went into operation the first of this month. This step has been under consideration for some time, and has been taken because of the greatly increased interest in the peace cause throughout the nation, and the consequent necessity of larger and completer organization and consolidation of the peace forces of the country. The new Field Secretary will spend his time visiting important points where work is needed and called for; forming branch societies; aiding in organizing and holding meetings and conferences; attending and presenting the cause at religious, educational, industrial, and other national, state or local conventions; soliciting memberships, subscriptions and contributions; in a word, promoting the work of the Society in advancing the cause of arbitration and peace in whatever places may offer suitable opportunities for doing so.

For this important position the Board have fortunately secured the services of Rev. Charles E. Beals, recently pastor of the Prospect Street Congregational Church, Cambridge, Mass. Mr. Beals is, the Board be-

lieve, peculiarly well qualified for this service. Still a young man, well educated, with a strong, vital personality, full of energy and enthusiasm, and thoroughly devoted to all the higher and better interests of humanity, Mr. Beals brings to this work profound conviction of the greatness and sacredness of the cause, and a devotion which will almost certainly prove contagious wherever he goes. We commend him to the confidence and kindness of all those among whom his lot may fall — and not only to your confidence, but also to your cordial coöperation, for no man, however gifted, can make a success of such a large and difficult task as this unless those with whom and for whom he labors enter heartily into his labors.

### Notice of the Annual Meeting.

Notice is hereby given to the members that the Eightieth Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society will be held in the Society's Rooms, 31 Beacon Street, Boston, on May 18, 1908, at 2 o'clock P.M. The Annual Dinner will take place at 6.30 P.M. the same day, the place of which will be announced in the May issue of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*, as also the names of those who will speak. Will all the members who are within reach of Boston kindly reserve this date and arrange to be present? It is the eightieth anniversary of the Society, and we hope to make the occasion a most interesting and important one.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD, *Secretary*.

### Editorial Notes.

The Duma  
and the Navy.

The opposition among the Russian people to the government's proposal to spend a thousand millions of dollars in rebuilding a vast battle fleet has shown itself powerfully in the third Duma, in spite of the fact that the body is composed very largely of reactionaries. The government's program was so severely criticised that it was finally withdrawn, as there was no hope that the Duma could be persuaded to accept it. Even the National Defense Committee, which was composed entirely of reactionaries, refused to report even a modest credit for new warships, until the Navy Department should be thoroughly reorganized. Mr. Stolypin used all his power of persuasion to bring the Duma to grant the credit. The Duma Committee refused to be moved. The general opinion in the Duma seems to favor small ships instead of vessels of the big "Dreadnought" type, such as several governments are now building. Are we to have, after all, the surprise of seeing limitation of armaments begin with Russia? Just as strange things have happened. Russia has no need of a great navy, from any point of view, and she will recover her prestige much more quickly if she does not rebuild than if she does, and she will be safer and stronger without a navy.